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Connecticut General Assembly

Attn: Public Safety and Security Committee

Re: Written Testimony in Support of House Bill 6376

Dear Senator Dimassa, Senator Paolillo, Representative Verrengia and all the honorable members of the Public Safety and Security Committee:

My name is Brenda Liz Vera and I live in New Haven, CT. I am an Inspector for the Department of Motor Vehicle who is certified with the Police Officer Standards and Training Council pursuant to sections 7-294a to 7-294e. It's been 3 1/2 years since I started my career as a Law Enforcement Officer. I graduated from the Connecticut Police Academy in Meriden on September 15, 2015. I have experienced the same training regiment as other POST certified police officers in Connecticut, including the Field Training Program. I was assigned to the Central Truck Team and my main focus was to conduct safety inspections on trucks to prevent accidents from happening and making the highway safe for everyone. I'm currently working with the Dealer Enforcement Unit.

When I discovered that none of the members of my department were not Peace Officers as defined as 53a-3(9) of the general statutes, I was dismayed. I graduated from the Connecticut Police Academy, received POST certification, wear a police uniform, gun, and badge, patrol the highways in a police cruiser, and ensure public safety. My coworkers and I risk our lives every day with the intention of helping the public and getting home safe to our loved ones. Being a Peace Officer affords officers rights and protection under the color of law. These rights and protection would allow us to do our jobs and help gain compliance from the individuals that we encounter on an everyday basis.

I implore you to make the necessary changes to the law to allow our Department to succeed in its mission and goals. Please make these changes to allow me to go back home to my family every day. Please support us on the House Bill 6376 for Motor Vehicles Inspectors to be added to the definition as "Peace Officers". This would not cost the state any money and allow us to continue to do our jobs safely and effectively.

Sincerely,

*Brendaliz Vera*

Brenda Liz Vera